



Thomas Sanderson – Town Crier

Thomas Sanderson was born in Sunderland on 8th January 1808. He was a very eccentric character in Sunderland known for his umbrella mending, poetry and musical talents. From his home known as the Metal Hall, an iron hut on wheels where he lived and sold all sorts of musical instruments .

Tommy's main occupation was mending umbrellas for local people.

He was evicted by Sunderland Corporation from his home near Borough Road, which was near where the Museum is today. He decided to leave Sunderland for a while, however when he returned he became the Corporation Bell Man and Sunderland's Town Crier until his death in 1892.

A painting that belongs to Sunderland Museum, clearly shows Tommy in Church Walk in the East End, calling out news and messages for the public to hear.